

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

ACDA-19 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01

SY-04 A-01 M-02 OPR-02 SCCT-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 AID-20

CCO-00 OC-06 USSS-00 DRC-01 /193 W

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R 191300Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8910

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NY

USDOCOSOUTH

DIA WASHDC//DI-5//

USEUCOM VAIHAIGEN

USCINCEUR

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SIT REP 28

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR CY

SUBJECT: COUP: NICOS SAMPSON'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: FBIS M18191Z, M182253

1. SAMPSON HELD FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE FOR CYPRIOT AND
FOREIGN JOURNALISTS JULY 18 AT 12:00 NOON, BUT PRESS CONFERENCE
WAS NOT CARRIED ON LOCAL MEDIA UNTIL EVENING BROADCASTS.

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2. BACKED BY FOUR ARMED GUARDS, SAMPSON REITERATED THAT GOVT OF NATIONAL SALVATION IN FIRM CONTROL AND ISLAND WAS CALM. INSISTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE OBSERVED AS OPPOSED TO CORRUPT PRACTICES OF PREVIOUS REGIME. EMPHASIZED NEW GOC CONSIDERS ITSELF BOUND BY ALL INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS. STRESSED COUP WAS TO PREVENT CIVIL WAR AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS. ASKED IF NEW GOC AIM WAS ENOSIS, HE FUDGED REPLY BY STATING THAT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WILL CONTINUE AND AGAIN INSISTED THAT CLERIDES WILL BE CHIEF NEGOTIATOR. REJECTED RUMORS OF HUNDREDS OF DEAD AND PROMISED TO ANNOUNCE CASUALTY FIGURES LATER. INSISTED THERE WAS NO NEED FOR TURKISH INTERVENTION SINCE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAVE NOT BEEN HARMED. ASKED IF GREEK NG OFFICERS WOULD REMAIN IN CYPRUS, HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY AND NOTED THAT NG OFFICERS "HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GIVEN CYPRIOT NATIONALITY." ANNOUNCED OPENING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUT REGRETFULLY INSISTED THAT CENSORSHIP WOULD BE MAINTAINED "FOR TIME BEING." SAMPSON SAID HE WOULD "SOON" (1) ANNOUNCE DATE FOR VISIT TO ATHENS, AND (2) SEEK RECOGNITION FROM FOREIGN GOVTS.

3. AFTER OPENING STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS SAMPSON, WITH HEW PIO, FOREIGN MINISTER, MIN OF EDUCATION AND MIN OF INTERIOR ALL PRESENT, PARADED NUMBER OF FORMER EOKA DETAINEES WHO DISPLAYED THEIR VARIOUS TORTURE MARKS. SAMPSON THEN HELD UP FOR CAMERAS EXAMPLES OF VARIOUS TORTURE INSTRUMENTS PURPORTEDLY USED BY MAKARIOS GOVT. FORMER TRU COMMANDER AND THREE OF HIS MEN WERE THEN BROUGHT IN TO TESTIFY WITH THANKFULNESS ON THE HUMANE TREATMENT THEY WERE RECEIVING. SAMPSON INSISTED THAT THOSE FORMER OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ILL TREATMENT WOULD NOT BE COURT-MARTIALED BY EXISTING CIVIL LEGISLATION AND NOTED THAT HE AND "TWO MEMBERS OF HIS GOVT" WERE MEMBERS OF A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE "UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS."

4. COMMENT: AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE REPORT THAT EVENT WAS A "WELL ORGANIZED CIRCUS." EXTENSIVE LOCAL RADIO AND TV COVERAGE GIVEN TO CONFERENCE AS NEW GOC SEEMS TO BE MAKING DETERMINED PUBLIC ATTEMPT TO EMPHASIZE RETURN TO NORMALCY. END COMMENT

5. ADDITIONAL REPORTS FROM CBC ANNOUNCE THAT AKIS HADJI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GEORGIOU HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND ACTING MINISTER OF FINANCE (ONLY PORTFOLIO OF ATTORNEY GENERAL REMAINS TO BE FILLED NOW).

5. CBC ALSO REPORTED THAT LOCUM TENENS OF CHURCH OF CYPRUS BISHOP GENNIADIOS OF PAPHOS CONVENED HOLY SYNOD JULY 18 TO REINSTATE THREE DEFROCKED BISHOPS (GENNIADIOS, KYPRIANOU AND ANTHOMIS) IN THEIR SEES AND GENERALLY TO RESCIND ALL MEASURES WHICH

ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS HAD PUSHED THROUGH REFORMED SYNOD OVER PAST YEAR. SPECIFICALLY, GENNIADIOS-LED SYNOD REAFFIRMED APRIL 1973 DEFROCKING OF MAKARIOS, AND PLEDGED MOVE TO ELECTION OF NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CYPRUS. (COMMENT: NEW TEAM IS MOVING VERY FAST TO ROLL BACK MAKARIOS-INITIATED REFORMS IN CHURCH OF CYPRUS. REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW VILLAGE CLERGY WILL REACT.)

6. CURFEW PASSED QUIETLY JULY 18/19. LIFTED UNTIL 1900 JULY 19.

7. CBC 1000 LOCAL JULY 19 CLAIMING THAT USG "LEANING" TOWARD NEW REGIME. SOLE BASIS FOR STORY IS ALLEGED REUTERS REPORT.
DAVIES

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Message Attributes

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